

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SG03/00023

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: G01R 31/28, H01L 21/66

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT, USPTO, ESPACE. KEYWORDS: PROBE, NEEDLE, CLEAN, TEST, PARAMETER, DIE AND SIMILAR.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Patent Abstracts of Japan, JP 2001-326258 A (TOKYO SEIMITSU CO. LTD) 22 NOVEMBER 2001 & machine translation obtained on 12 March 2003 from "www1.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/PA1/cgi-bin/PA1INIT?". See abstract and description including paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 10.	1 - 15, 21 - 37, 43, 44
X	US 6257958 B1 (ANGELL et al) 10 JULY 2001. See abstract, drawings and description including column 7 lines 1 to 65.	1 - 15, 21 - 37, 43, 44
X	US 6218848 B1 (HEMBREE et al) 17 APRIL 2001. See abstract, drawings and description including column 1 line 54 to column 2 line 21, column 2 line 53 to column 3 line 8, and column 8 lines 55 to 67.	1 - 15, 21 - 37, 43, 44

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

"*	Special categories of cited documents:	
"D"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
13 March 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report
20 MAR 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized officer
RICHARD REED
Telephone No : (02) 6283 7927

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SG03/00023

C (Continuation).

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Patent Abstracts of Japan, JP 10-209231A (NIPPON STEEL CORP.) 7 AUGUST 1998 & machine translation obtained on 12 March 2003 from "www1.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/PA1/cgi-bin/PA1INT?". See abstract and description including paragraphs 7 to 10 and 23 to 31	1 - 15, 21 - 37, 43, 44
A	US 6127831 A (KHOURY et al) 3 OCTOBER 2000. Whole document.	1 - 44
A	US 4314855 A (CHANG et al) 9 FEBRUARY 1982. Whole document.	1 - 44

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/SG03/00023

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
JP	2001032625	JP	2002236503		
US	6257958	US	6019663	US	6254469
US	6218848	US	6181144		
JP	10209231		NONE		
US	6127831	JP	10303260		
US	4314855		NONE		

END OF ANNEX